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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who has been our guiding light throughout life's seasons, keep our lawmakers within the circle of Your divine will. Lord, give them hearts that seek Your wisdom, feet that flee from evil, and hands that serve Your purposes for our Nation and world. Empower them to be faithful to You and their calling to do Your will on Earth, inspiring them with Your purpose to live lives above reproach. May they be guided by integrity as they permit righteousness to deliver them from trouble. Make them worthy of Your redemptive love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the White House released its budget proposal for fiscal year 2020. Understanding the President's key priorities and vision for Federal spending is critical to the success of the entire funding process here in Congress.

Republicans agree that we need to remain focused on important goals, such as the continued rebuilding of our military, keeping up the fight against opioid abuse, and addressing the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

As the senior Senator from Kentucky, I was especially encouraged to see the President's commitment to our Nation's veterans front and center, including a request to fully fund construction of the new Robley Rex VA Medical Center in my hometown of Louisville.

Together with my Senate colleagues, I look forward to carefully reviewing the administration's priorities as this year's funding process moves ahead.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, building on last week's progress, the Senate will consider two more of President Trump's outstanding judicial nominees, in addition to another executive branch nominee, this week.

The first item of business is the nomination of Paul Matey of New Jersey to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Matey holds degrees from Scranton and Seton Hall Universities, as well as clerkships on our Nation's Federal courts. He has served the people of his State in the Office of U.S. Attorney in

New Jersey and has built an impressive record.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voting to advance and confirm Mr. Matey and these other distinguished nominees so the Senate can fulfill our responsibility to the American people.

MEDICARE FOR ALL

On a final matter, here is a quote: "I think the \$33 trillion price tag for 'Medicare for all' is a little scary." That came from a Democratic Member of Congress who happens to sit in a leadership role. She sounds worried, and I don't blame her.

The new House Democratic majority has wasted no time—no time at all—rolling out one half-baked socialist proposal after another. Apparently, the remarkable job growth, wage growth, and new opportunities pouring into communities across America have failed to persuade my Democratic friends of a simple reality: Things go pretty well when government gets its foot off the brake and lets American families live their lives without oppressive supervision from Washington Democrats. Apparently, that is just inconceivable, because the outlandish, government-driven proposals to take over one economic sector after another continue to roll in.

We have all heard about the Green New Deal—the far left's master plan to hurt American energy independence, disrupt millions of workers' livelihoods, put entire industries out of business, and let Washington regulators redesign every building in America, while letting China and other countries off the hook. That is just for starters. We have all heard about the price tag as estimated by the one research outfit that has actually taken a shot at hanging some numbers on all the vague, pie-in-the-sky language. They calculated the total could exceed \$90 trillion.

But let's not lose sight of the other party-defining, socialist pivot many Democrats are rushing to embrace: Medicare for None. Yes, Democrats

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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